SOME RECENT MUSEUM ACCESSIONS

Photostat of the first U. S. patent issued, July 1, 1790, to Samuel Hopkins of Vermont "for an improvement in the making of pot-ash and pearl-ash".

Lithograph-Memphremagog House, Newport, Vermont. Original hostelry was built in the 1850's and, up into the 80's, was one of the fashionable hotel resorts of New England . . . "$4.00 a day, 300 guests, a large first-class hotel on the lake shore".

MANUSCRIPT GIFTS

Two important collections of papers have been presented to the Society, disclosing more of the life of William Czar Bradley, a Vermonter who starred in international relations in the early 1800's. The family papers of Daniel Kellogg, son-in-law, which date from 1807 to 1862, were the gift of Mrs. Susan K. Wright of Westminster, and those of Jonathan Dorr Bradley, son, date from 1802 to 1887.

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY STATE HOUSE MONTPELIER

Leon S. Gay, President; Earle W. Newton, Director.

Telephone: Montpelier 1500, Extension 39.

OPEN TO ALL: Daily, Monday through Friday, 8:00 A. M. to 4:30 P. M.
Founded 1838. Membership, $3.00 a year; $5.00, sustaining;
$10.00, institutional; $100.00, life.

VHS *News and Notes*

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Montpelier, Vermont

Sec. 34.66
P. L. & R.

VHS *News and Notes*

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ISSUED BY THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 1 OCTOBER, 1949 NUMBER 2

YOUR SOCIETY IS HONORED

The V. H. S. has received national recognition for its contribution to the preservation of American local history. As recipient of the annual *Award of Merit,* the Society has been named by the American Association for State and Local History for outstanding achievement during the last year.

The American Association for State and Local History
Washington, D. C.

Award of Merit

The American Association for State and Local History is pleased to recognize and commend the distinctive contribution of the

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For an unusual and dynamic program of interpreting the state's historical heritage in cooperation with state and private organizations including a popular quarterly magazine Vermont Life which has attained a circulation of 50,000; The Vermont Story, a colorful presentation of state history in book form, both of which set new standards in historical interpretation reaching wide audiences.

To American Local History, in witness whereof this Certificate is presented in accordance with the formal citation of the Committee on Awards dated on the fourteenth day of September, 1949 and transmitted to the proper officers.

F. K. Stevens
President

Albert B. Gay
Chairman of the Committee on Awards

NEW NATIONAL MAGAZINE OF HISTORY

A new national magazine, with a circulation which includes the U. S. and Canada, made its debut in our own State at Burlington on Sunday, September 11. *American Heritage* is the colorful historical quarterly of the American Association for State and Local History, and its announcement was made simultaneously with the opening of the association's convention in Burlington.

Vermont is predominant in the first issue which carries 12 pages in full color on the story of the Champlain Valley, the steamer *Ticonderoga,* the Sheldon Museum of Middlebury and feature articles by Vermont authors Frederic Van de Water, Ralph N. Hill and Dean of Middlebury College W. Storrs Lee. Subsequent issues will search out little known stories of other regions.

We can take care of your requests here in Montpelier. The annual subscription rate is $3.00. Each member of the V. H. S. is receiving a complimentary copy. Only 5000 copies of the first issue were printed and, if we can judge by *Vermont Life,* first issues of which are now selling for from $5.00 to $10.00, they stand to become collectors' items.

Your director is editor, and associate editors are S. K. Stevens, Pennsylvania State Historian and president of the association and Mary E. Cunningham of the N. Y. State Historical Association.

Some of the members of the editorial board are Allan Nevins, professor of history at Columbia and twice Pulitzer prize-winning biographer; Carl Carmer, author, folklorist and editor of *Rivers of America* Series; Frank Monaghan, author, historian and historical consultant to the Freedom Train; Roy Nichols, current Pulitzer prize-winning historian and Roger Butterfield, ex-editor of "Life" magazine and author of *The American Past,* a history of the United States.

BURLINGTON MEETING — SEPT. 12, 13 and 14

Your Museum was shining on Tuesday, Sept. 13, to welcome the members of the American Association for State and Local History. New exhibits had been set up and were ready for the one hundred delegates who were in Vermont and had come to Montpelier under escort for the Governor's reception and their annual dinner.

But let's start back at the beginning. We had made Oakledge Manor the convention's headquarters since one feature was the Champlain boat trip. Delegates started to pour in on Sunday almost before our display and registration tables were set up. We had arranged an exhibit based on the *Vermont Life* article, *Making History Live,* the story of the V. H. S. Briefly, it shows that in the tradition of the Stephen Daye Press, the Society preserves the rich record of the past — as the printed word can best do. The display pointed out how through dissemination and interpretation by means of our weekly radio program, press releases, cartoons, publications; through education, by the Edmunds Essay contest in Vermont schools and by film; and cooperation (Vermont Life, Public Records Commission, War History Commission, Historic Sites Commission), we tell the story of Vermont, with its origin the museum and library. This display is to have a permanent place in the museum for those of you who were unable to attend. And copies of the booklet reprinting the *Vermont Life* article are available on request. If you would like to use them to interest new members, we'll send several.

WE SAIL IN GRANDEUR

The first day of the convention, Monday, was devoted wholly to the 1949 Lake Champlain Conference of the N. Y. State Historical Association and the V. H. S. One hundred and thirty-three of us sailed from Burlington aboard the *Ticonderoga.* As you all know, it is the last of the great white fleet of Champlain sidewheelers and did itself proud. As we walked from one to the other of the enlarged prints and fascinating mementos which covered the walls of the *Ti,* we sensed the past elegance and glory of early steamboating days on Lake Champlain.

It was a beautiful day and churning up the lake, we caught the spirit of the region through the words of Judge Berne A. Pyrke who took us back to the days when the Champlain Valley played such an important part in the nation's history. And we were privileged to have a reading from Ralph Nading Hill's forthcoming book *Contrary Country,* which gave us a story of the days of the sidewheelers.

Arriving at Fort St. Frederick, we were sped on to Fort Ticonderoga. Restored and preserved by the Pell family, it is a fascinating museum of Revolutionary history. In 1806 when the first of the family acquired the property, it was little more than a pile of stone. Today it is the most faithfully restored Revolutionary fort in America and houses the greatest collection of Revolutionary objects.

On display is the bullet which killed General Wolfe at Quebec, Burgoyne's shaving mug, all kinds of swords, uniforms and military trappings. Some of the tons of metal objects dug up around the fort are in the barrack basement. The top floor shows the peaceful side of colonial life and here, mingled with war clubs, tomahawks and other Indian relics, are carpenter and blacksmith tools, candle molds, looms and clothing.

Great is the work that has been done. We were privileged and grateful to have seen it.

Back on ship, we dined in assembly line manner and then gathered for a pleasant half-hour with Mrs. Marjorie Lansing Porter of Plattsburg. Mrs. Porter traced the history of the iron industry in the Adirondacks from its beginnings in 1800, through its temporary decline on to the present day.

Next, in the absence of Marcel Trudel of Laval University, Quebec, Rev. Honorius Provost read us his paper on the history of the St. Lawrence Valley in Canadian-American relations.

Returning to Burlington, some of us retired to Oakledge Manor, others to Hotel Vermont but the Association's hard-working council continued far into the night.

AN HISTORICAL TOUR

Tuesday found us reassembled at the Manor in informative sessions devoted to the publishing of local history. After the annual luncheon we started off in bus and private car for the Shelburne Museum. It is to be a collection of old buildings, erected as nearly as possible in their original condition to house antiques collected by Mr. and Mrs. J. Watson Webb during the past forty years. Almost all the antiques are American and include collections of wooden Indians and eagles, early folk art, carriages, furniture, pewter, costumes, dolls and so on.

A bit behind schedule, we were hurried through the Sheldon Museum in Middlebury with its model early Vermont rooms and authenic furnishings, reminiscent of Vermont pioneer days.

Thence, over Breadloaf mountain and on to Montpelier. At just about the Warren town line, the Governor's escort joined us. Not expecting such attention, some of our out-of-state drivers slowed down to virtually a crawl, apparently of the opinion that the preservers of our law and order were about to pounce on them.

Governor Ernest W. Gibson and Lt. Governor Harold J. Arthur received the guests in the stately reception room of the State House as a preliminary to the annual dinner at the Pavilion Hotel. Excellent well-served food put the group in a genial receptive mood for the unusual paper on folklore's place in history by Director Louis C. Jones of the N. Y. State Hist. Association. We were right proud of Lieut. Gov. Arthur who blended his understanding of history with his self-styled "views of a politician" in his welcoming remarks.

The surprise of the evening was the showing of the *Louisiana Story,* a marvelous production by Robert Flaherty, "father of the documentary film." Brother David Flaherty is at work directing the filming of the *Vermont Story* which we are now all the more anxious to see.

ALL WORK AND NO PLAY

Wednesday morning found us at the Fleming Museum, guests of the University of Vermont. Mary Cunningham of the New York Association traced for us the changes in local history study over the past 50 years. She recalled the introduction of local history as an integral part of the national story in 1900 and reviewed the development over the 50 year period from the influence of a small circle of antiquarians to the present day projection of history into all planes of living. It was noted that sources of history had been generally recognized as social and political documents of state but it is now accepted that local history gives the true picture of American life and brings heritage to the communities.

Luncheon shifted our scene to the Waterman Building. Introduced by Prof. Leon W. Dean of the U. V. M. Department of English, Carl Carmer, in his inimitable poetic way, expressed to us how in his writing he merely tries to interpret the poetry and stories he finds in others. "Every community has a legend", Carmer said, "and events of little importance become significant in the over-all story."

Carl is author of *Stars Fell on Alabama, Listen for a Lonesome Drum,* and the forthcoming *Dark Trees to the Wind,* co-editor of the *Rivers of America* Series, and nationally known folklorist. In his own words: "I choose to write what people will enjoy and not as an historian or as a folklorist" (although it develops that he is a master at both).

After the afternoon sessions on historic markers, delegates began to drift off, some on their way to the Archivists' Convention at Quebec. We of the Society were proud to act as host to this group and to have them see Vermont as we know it. This entire October issue has been devoted to the convention because we have felt that those of you who were unable to attend would want the complete story.

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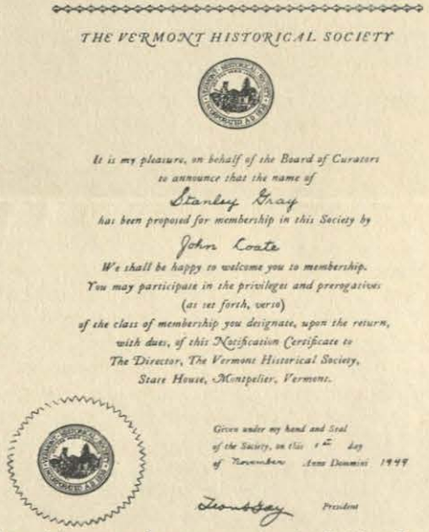
VOLUME 1 NOVEMBER, 1949 NUMBER 3

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Our drive for new members is on. We have prepared an Invitation or Certificate which is reproduced here. The idea is this . . . each member elects at least one friend to membership in the Society by sending his name into Montpelier or filling out his own certificate (we'll send you some, upon your asking). The Notification Certificate carries the name of the proposed member and the name of the person proposing him, is signed by President Leon S. Gay and is mailed with a copy of *VHS News and Notes* and an illustrated article story of the Vermont Historical Society, *Making History Live.*


THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Board of Curators to announce that the name of

Stanley Gray

has been proposed for membership in this Society by

John Coate

We shall be happy to welcome you to membership. You may participate in the privileges and prerogatives (as set forth, verso) of the class of membership you designate, upon the return, with dues, of this Notification Certificate to The Director, The Vermont Historical Society, State House, Montpelier, Vermont.

Given under my hand and Seal of the Society, on this 1st day of November Anno Dominei 1949

Leon S. Gay President

Then, the Notification Certificate is returned (with dues) and we have a new member.

Since the drive was begun, Mr. Vrest Orton, our member from Weston and very active on the membership committee, has alone nominated 23 new members, who have accepted.

The Notification Certificate is sufficiently clear as to the different memberships. That is, an active membership is $3.00 a year; a sustaining, $5.00 (which covers one year's dues and entitles member to one book dividend a year—a publication of the Society); an institutional, $10.00 a year (institutional meaning local historical societies, PTA groups, Vermont industries, and so on) and life, $100.00 (you never have to be bothered with dues again!).

Members receive copies of the official magazine *Vermont Quarterly,* without charge, and the monthly newsletter, *VHS News and Notes,* and are allowed a discount on all publications of the Society.

Our membership at this point totals 814. We need your nominations to show an increase in next month's newsletter. *Our goal is* 1000 *by December* 31.

We thank those members who have sent in their proposals for membership. We say to you who have not, please sit down and write us a post card, won't you?